

What Happens when it rains in Jacksonville?

When rain hits the ground, water that does not soak into the soil becomes stormwater which flows into storm drains, ditches, creeks and streams. The Stormwater eventually ends up in Wilson Bay or the New River. As stormwater flows, it may pick up unwanted waste that can pollute our natural resources.

Rain Gardens Can Prevent Pollution

A shallow depression planted with native plants, called a rain garden, captures and infiltrates rain before it becomes polluted stormwater runoff.



Purpose

The City of Jacksonville's Stormwater Division is helping to create a Clean & Green Jacksonville and is dedicated to planting the seeds of environmental practices through education and outreach programs to provide a better quality of life for all Citizens.

For more information visit
www.ci.jacksonville.nc.us



6 things you can do for a Clean & Green Jacksonville

1. Plant a stormwater filtering rain garden at home
2. Pick up after your pets and properly dispose of waste in your garbage can
3. Bag and Tie your waste for City collection at the curb
4. Do not overuse lawn chemicals or pesticides, especially before it rains
5. Never pour chemicals, oil, or cleansers on the ground or into storm drains
6. Avoid washing your car in a driveway or street

Clean &
Green
Jacksonville

Stormwater Division

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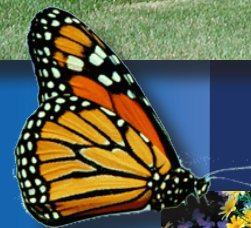
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City of Jacksonville

Rain Gardens

Beautiful, Environmentally
Friendly Landscapes that help
prevent pollution naturally



Clean &
Green
Jacksonville

City of Jacksonville
City Hall • 815 New Bridge St

www.ci.jacksonville.nc.us
910 938-5200

Rain Gardens

Why do we need rain gardens?

When rain falls on surfaces such as rooftops and parking lots it is not absorbed into the ground. Instead, it flows over these hard surfaces collecting pollutants along the way. This polluted stormwater runs into fragile coastal waters such as Wilson Bay and the New River. **Rain gardens reduce polluted runoff.**

The FAQs

Does a rain garden form a pond? No. Rain soaks into the ground so the rain garden is dry between rain events.

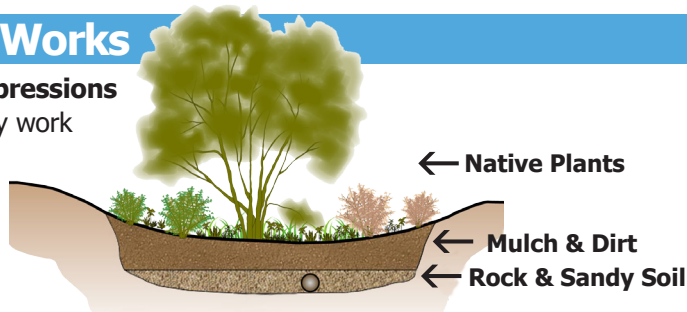
Do they attract mosquitoes? No. Mosquitoes need 7 to 12 days to lay and hatch eggs, rain gardens generally dry in 1 to 3 days.

Why is stormwater runoff pollution a problem? Unlike water in City sewer lines, rain flowing through storm drains is not treated for pollutants before it reaches bodies of water. Runoff pollution harm water supplies, fish, wildlife & plants and cause flooding.

Is a rain garden expensive? Typically no. Back yard rain gardens should not be expensive with the main cost being plants.

How a Rain Garden Works

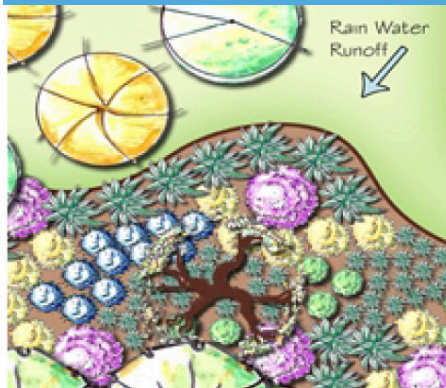
Rain Gardens are shallow depressions containing native plants. They work the way nature does, capturing stormwater runoff so it can soak into the ground. Rocks and sandy soil is key to helping proper drainage in a rain garden.



Rain gardens benefit everyone!

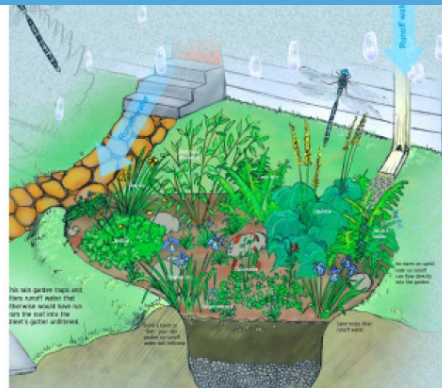
- Rain gardens reduce polluted stormwater runoff
- Reduce flooding & recharge the groundwater
- Enhance the beauty of your yard & community
- Provide places for wildlife to live

Planting a Rain Garden



Locate

Select an area that will capture and absorb runoff. Location will depend on surface and soil types. Low lying areas that collect water naturally are best (i.e.; muddy areas and places that collect water when it rains).



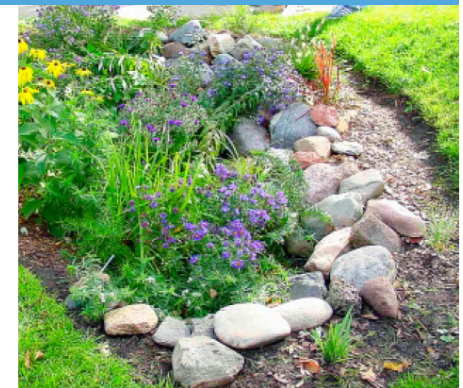
Design

The Design should be shallow, 4-8 inches lower than the surrounding lawn. A rain garden can be any shape depending on a selected location and runoff collection capability.



Build & Plant

Dig shallow depressions for the outline & base, with the bottom depth being at least 2ft above the water table. Ideally, plant the rain garden with native plants in the spring or fall. Be sure to use rocks & sandy soil to help drainage.



Maintain

Water your rain garden periodically for the first growing season until plants are fully established. When using native plants, maintenance may only include annual mulching and weeding.